

JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Volume III, #1

Spring 1991

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Mistakes That Pay

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When It Comes to Barbers, We Wrote Both Books...

BARBER DIMES

1892-S AU55	195.
1893 AU50	60.
1893-O MS60	250.
1894-O VG/F	60.
1895 AF	125.
1895 Proof 62 ANACS Cache Nice cameo. A light scratch in headress keeps it from a much higher grade	500.
1895-O G/VG	145.
1895-S MS62 NGC P/L	600.
1895-S MS62+	600.
1896 MS62 PCGS	225.
1896 MS63 Pretty toning	375.
1896-O F12	125.
1896-O XF40 Ltly Clnd	275.
1897-O G	35.
1897-S F	31.
1898-O MS61 ANACS Cache Softly struck. Scarce	365.
1899 AU58	55.
1899-O XF	79.
1899-S XF/AU	45.
1900-O VF30	72.
1900-S AU55	75.
1901 AU	42.
1901-O AU	115.
1901-O MS60 ANACS Cache	275.
1903-S MS62+	800.
1903-S MS64 NGC Very Scarce	2,750.
1904-S AU50 P/L	350.
1905-O Micro-O NGC MS-65 Toned with underlying luster. Much scarcer than the regular 'O'	7,250.
1905-O Regular O XF45	45.
1905-S MS61 ANACS Cache	215.
1906-D MS61 PCGS	158.
1906-O AU55 Ltly. Cleaned ...	105.
1906-O MS64 NGC Well- struck. White coin	975.

1907-D MS64 PCGS Flashy, white coin. Very Scarce ..	1,650.
1907-O MS61 ANACS Cache	165.
1909-O XF/AU	40.
1909-S XF40	85.
1910-S MS60+ Ltly. Cleaned	225.
1913-S AU	240.
1915-S AXF	36.

BARBER QUARTERS

1892-S AU50	250.
1894-O AU50	156.
1895 AU58 NGC	150.
1895 MS63 PCGS White, lustrous	550.
1896 AU58	130.
1896-S F+ Cleaned Some corrosion. Only	195.
1898-O AU Very lt. scratch ...	275.
1898-S XF45	75.
1899-O AU55	245.
1899-S AU55	210.
1900 AU55	130.
1901-O AXF Scarce	200.
1902 AU58	125.
1903-O XF	75.
1903-O XF/AU	100.
1903-S XF	89.
1906 MS62 PCGS	235.
1906-O XF Ltly. Cleaned but nice luster	68.
1908 AU53	125.
1908-O MS62 PCGS	250.
1908-S VF	92.
1909-O F+	43.
1911-D AF	59.
1911-S MS63 PCGS	575.
1913 VF/XF	145.
1913-S Close to G	195.
1913-S GNG	330.
1914-S F+	125.
1914-S MS64 PCGS White, lustrous. RARE	2,975.

BARBER HALVES

1892-O AU Sharp strike, Lightly cleaned	425.
1892-S AU Ltly. cleaned	425.
1893 AXF Nice & Orig	120.
1893-O AU	360.
1894 AU	265.
1896 XF45 ANACS Cache	220.
1896 AU58 Ltly. cleaned	265.
1896-S XF45	365.
1897-O F Minor rim bump	110.
1897-S AVF Very lt. scratch	215.
1898 XF/AU	145.
1898-S XF45	185.
1899-O XF45	225.
1899-S AAU	250.
1901 AU53	265.
1901-O XF/AU	275.
1902-O XF40 Ltly. cleaned	160.
1902-S AXF Nice & Orig	135.
1902-S AU50 Ltly. cleaned ..	260.
1903-O AU Very light scratch. Decent	205.
1903-S F+	40.
1904 AU58 ANACS Cache	295.
1905 XF/AU	290.
1905-O F/VF+	67.
1905-S F/VF+	46.
1905-S XF	190.
1906-O VF Ltly. cleaned	50.
1907-O MS61 White & very lustrous	350.
1907-S XF45	260.
1908 AU Ltly. cleaned	225.
1908-D AU55	265.
1908-O VF20	55.
1909-O AU	450.
1910 MS63 PCGS White, lustrous. Scarce date	1,275.
1910-S AXF	120.
1912 XF/AU	165.
1913-S MS61	440.
1914 F12	110.

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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Published quarterly, and dedicated to bringing together a group of people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series within the numismatic community.

— Steve Epstein, Publisher - Barber Coin Collectors' Journal

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14 W. Orange Street	3828 Garfield Ave., South	P. O. Box 18401
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Contributing Editors: • Bill Cregan • Phil Carrigan • Pete Haishun
• Joe Haney • H. G. Tom Crogan

★ We welcome Pete Haishun as a new Contributing Editor.

ON THE COVER:

Mistakes That Pay

Quality is a household word in America these days. From cars to cameras, we expect them to be made right and we're willing to pay for it. When it's not made right it's worth less, as in the case of "seconds." What manufactured item do we know of that is worth more if it's made wrong? You guessed it. COINS.

They're not called mistakes, though. Sometimes they're called errors; but most of the time they're given a name more palatable to the ear. Varieties. Varieties can take many forms. But the error/variety that has most fascinated me is the off-center strike. An off-center strike occurs when the planchet (blank coin slug) is not completely inside the coining chamber, causing it to be struck partially off center.

Off-center Barbers have become a favorite collectible of mine because of their rarity. In the nineteenth century and into the first part of the twentieth century, error coins were considered inferior to a normal, or standard, coin. Mint employees, therefore, had every incentive to look hard for them and to pull them from circulation when discovered. If falling into circulation, they

were not put aside, leaving the vast majority to wear down to the lowest grades.

The availability of off-center Barbers by denomination seems to bear out the premise that they were destined for destruction if spotted early. Although rare in all denominations, off-center half dollar Barbers seem to be the hardest to locate. This would seem logical, since their larger size would have made them easier to spot, and were subsequently destroyed more than the Barber dime or quarter.

I've been collecting off-center Barbers for three years and during that period I have looked for them while attending many large and small shows. During that entire period, I have seen eight off-center Barber dimes, four off-center Barber quarters, and no off-center Barber halves. I mentioned this to Marilyn Van Allen and she told me of an off-center Barber half dollar that appeared in the July 15, 1987 issue of *Coin World* and in the *Collector's Clearinghouse* section. As you can see from the picture on the Journal's cover, it is dateless and is 25 percent off-center.

There is a very active error market and off-center coins are a part of it. As with "normal" coins, errors can be collected by date or by type. The value of off-center coins seems to be determined by several factors including scarcity, the percent the coin is off center, and the more the date is visible the more valuable the coin. Also, errors of known rare dates would command an even greater premium.

Although there are error pricing guides around, I have found that in purchasing my small off-center Barber collection, it's what the market will bear. Interestingly, grading seems to play only a minor role in determining the value of off-center Barbers. My eight off-center Barber dimes, ranging in grade from Fine to MS-63, range in cost from \$65 in fine (about a 20 times premium for a normal coin in that same grade) to \$275 for my MS-63 (about 1.5 times the cost of a normal coin in that grade). The four off-center Barber quarters I saw were in the VF to AU range, with an average cost of \$700 each.

Off-center Barbers are fun collecting for me and another way to appreciate the hobby I so much enjoy.



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One-eighth Page	\$ 15.00	\$ 50.00
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Half Page	40.00	130.00
Full Page	70.00	240.00
Full Page (Inside Front or Back Cover)	100.00	350.00
Full Page (Outside Back Cover)	150.00	500.00

Deadline for copy will be June 1.

To place display advertising in the BCCS Journal contact:
Publisher, BCCS Journal
P. O. Box 382246, Memphis, TN 38183-2246

ADVERTISING POLICY

Any dealer or collector member in good standing of the Barber Coin Collectors' Society who is at least 18 years of age may place advertising in the Society's Journal. Minors under the age of 18 must first provide a "certificate of responsibility" from their parent or guardian before any advertising can be placed.

Only ads for Barber coins and associated supplies are permitted, although advertisers may provide generic descriptions of any other coins they sell. Mail bid advertising cannot be accepted.

The Publisher reserves the right to edit or decline advertising that is in conflict with BCCS bylaws. Unless otherwise specified in the ad, advertisers must accept the return of merchandise in the original holders that bears a postmark within 7 business days of the receipt by the customer. Any purchaser wanting to get an independent opinion of any coin must first notify the advertiser within the applicable time that the merchandise can be returned.

All advertisers must properly describe the condition of all coins advertised. Unless otherwise noted, the grading description of all coins will be in accordance with the "Official ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins."

Articles, questions, comments and ads are welcome and should be forwarded to: Publisher, BCCS, P.O. Box 382246, Memphis, TN 38183-2246

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Any member may run a classified ad in the Journal. The rules as well as the deadline much the same way as for display advertising. The cost is 20 cents per word, with a \$5.00 minimum. Words count as follows: Date & mint-mark - 1 word; name initials - 1 word; address # - 1 word; zip code - 1 word.

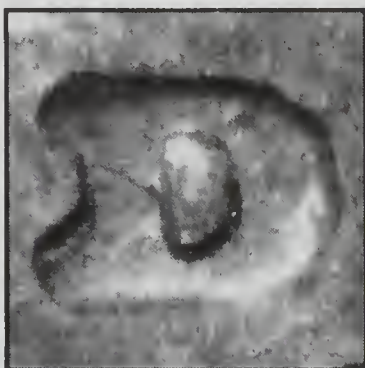
If you have Barbers you want to buy or sell and don't need a lot of space to do it, the *Classified Section* is for you.

MONTHLY MAIL BID AUCTION LOTS. Close 20th every month. Indians and Barbers. SASE required. Crogan, R5, B214, Gonzales, Texas, 78629-9615.

VARIETY CORNER

This Issue's Contributor
Joe Haney

We present (Q7 16-D/D) variety #7 of the 1916-D/D Barber Quarter. It is the first one I have found that shows the two serifs. It would probably be described as 1916-D/D north. I told you I thought we could double the first six (6) that were found. This is number one (1) with five (5) to go. Can you help us out?



Q7: 1916-D/D north

CORRECTION

In the last Journal, a very important photo, (Q6 16-D/D #2) the 1916-D/D Barber quarter was left out of the **Variety Corner** article on the extended 1916-D/Ds. It was a vital part of the article. Also, some of the description on the photos were left out. Instead of being identified as only Q2 and Q3 etc., the full Q2 16-D/D and Q3 16-D/D should have been used. The publisher expresses his apologies for this oversight.



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BARBER BARTER

The Barber Barter section will be discontinued after this Journal. Please refer to "Odd & Ends" on page 31 for a more detailed explanation.

WANTED: 1909-S and 1910-S dimes in XF-45. Also Barber Quarters: 1896-O, 1898-O, 1899-S XF-45. Will trade. Rich Hlavacik, 808 Colonade Rd., Shorewood, IL 60436.

FOR TRADE: Barber Halves — 1913, 1914, or 1915 Philadelphia Mint. In Good condition will trade any one for 10 different mint credit cards, 15 different for Very Good, or 50 different for Fine. Lin Overholt, Box 8481, Madiera Beach, FL 33738. 1-813-393-5397.

BARBER 10c FOR TRADE: Barber Dime: 1916-S – AU, will trade for similar R1 AU dime on my want list. Also many other R1 10c in G-VF for trade. Looking to upgrade to AU. Call, let's talk. Verne Pitman (201) 235-3068. 9-5 EST.

WANTED: Barber Quarters. 1892-O, 1909-O, 1897-O, 1892-S, 1895-S, 1897-S, 1898-S, 1903-S, 1911-D. All wanted in full VF and better. 1896-S, 1901-S, 1913-S in VG or better. Will trade. What do you need? Have large cents, Roman coins, stamps (British), Barber dimes in VG-XF. Awaiting a reply. Thanks. John Ciano, P.O. Box 6103, Chelsea, MA 02150.

HAVE THE FOLLOWING FOR TRADE: (All 10c) 1892-S AU "soft strike", 1893-O G, 1893-S G, 1895 G, 1895-S G, 1896-S G, 1896-O VG, 1897-O EF, 1899-O EF, 1900-O EF, 1900-O EF, 1901-S G+, 1903-S G, 1908-O EF, 1909-D VF, 1909-S EF, 1913-S EF. Ken Kerr, 4536 Ironwood Ln, Jackson, MS 39212.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters from members are welcome and will be published as space permits. The Publisher reserves the right to edit or omit material in accordance with Society bylaws.

The publication of letters is not necessarily an endorsement by the Society of a particular opinion held by a member. Also, members claiming new discoveries should be willing to permit personal examination of such discoveries by a recognized authority so as to add weight to its validity. Arrangements for such examinations can be made through the Publisher.

Finally, letter writers will not be identified unless they give permission when submitting their letter, or have given their permission on their membership application.

Support Our Young Numismatists

I am a new member of the Barber Coin Collector Society, and I am also a subscriber to "Coin World." A recent issue of the latter, Vol.32, #1607, dated 1/03/91, had an interesting trend editorial by Keith Zaner. The point of the article revolves about preserving our hobby through the awakening of young numismatists.

The BCCS does not have a program to entice the YN. I wonder if there would there be interest in developing such? I would think that a significant number of our 540 members

would contribute money to defray the membership costs of qualified YN.

I agree with Steve Epstein that each member will make this society work, and an investment in the YN can be a most satisfying endeavor for ourselves, our club, and our hobby.

If you support this concept, and/or are interested in helping developing such a program, please contact me at:

201 Union Avenue
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807

– John C. Iacuzzo

Update on Old Reverse Hubs

In reference to Mr. Carrigan's interesting article concerning the public auction of Allen F. Lovejoy Reference Collection of U.S. Dimes. I would like to bring notice to one particular Barber Dime. Lot #545 1904-S NGC MS-64. This dime has an old reverse hub variety of 1900. I didn't see this coin in person but by going through the auction catalog's nice pictures, I believe this coin to be genuine. This I find very interesting for I've never seen or heard of another with this variety. It also seems that collectors and dealers alike are not aware of old reverse hubs, except for the specialist. I feel that these are very important

varieties like the 1905-O microscopic "O". I would like to list the following dimes with old reverse hubs that I have seen to share with our other members.

- 1901-O Both old and new reverse hubs.
- 1901-O Over horizontal "O" only old reverse hub.
- 1901-S Only old reverse hub.
- 1902-S Both old and new reverse hubs.
- 1903-S Only old reverse hub.
- 1904-S Both old and new reverse hubs.
- 1905-S Both old and new reverse hubs.

– Karl Schuppenhauer

BARBER SOCIETY ESTABLISHING LITERARY AWARD


In order to promote the publication of new articles on Barbers written exclusively for our Journal by members and to maintain a high level of quality, it gives me great pleasure to announce the establishment of the Barber Coin Collectors' Society Literary Award. The award will be given for the article that is determined to be the most enjoyed by the membership for its advancement of Barber knowledge: It must be an article written by a Society member that first appeared in our Journal.

The award would be determined by membership vote and will include any article appearing in the Society's journal from our first journal

through the 12th Journal published in the winter of 1992. The winner will be announced at our general meeting at the 1992 Summer ANA.

You don't have to be a recognized numismatic historian to win. We've had some fine articles authored by members who have no reputation in the numismatics arena. It simply takes an interest, a little research, and a desire to express your opinions.

The winner will receive a \$100 savings bond along with a plaque recognizing the accomplishment. There will be two runner-ups, each of whom will receive a certificate of recognition and a Barber Society commemorative medal.

There are four more Journals to be published yet before the award is determined. Take the lead from those members who have already published some fine material, and let's see what you can do. 

BCCS GENERAL MEETING AT FUN

Our society convened its general meeting at FUN with the announcement that there were now 530 members. Paul Reuter, our Treasurer, reported that the audited Treasury report showed a balance in our Treasury as of Dec. 31, 1990 of \$870.09. Future treasury reports will be printed beginning with the Summer Journal and will display the latest calendar quarter (January-March).

It was announced that the Society's new commemorative medal would be minted for distribution by this summer's 100th ANA Show in August. Pre-order indicators suggest that between 750-900 would be minted.

Dave Lawrence discussed the upcoming publication of his book dedicated to Barber dimes. Part of that discussion included the discovery by member Phil Carrigan while doing researching for Dave's book, that the Mitchelson Specimen of the 1894-S dime actually never existed! This information was reported in the Winter, 1991 Journal. Dave's new book will be offered to BCCS members at a 15% discount.

Your President also displayed at the meeting a new membership brochure that includes a membership application. This brochure will be made available to members who have people interested in joining the Society. Simply send to the Society's mailing address when you have a person interested in joining, or give that person our address and we will do it for you.

There was some discussion on the Society's officer structure as more people become active, there is a growing need to put their talents to use. One area we are looking at is the appointment of a person to coordinate advertising. Any interested member should contact the Society's President.

Finally, there were recommendations to accept mail bid ads. There were two aspects to these recommendations. First, the Society would accept

ads from established mail bid firms who would adhere to a strict set of rules commonly required in advertisements appearing in the major numismatic publications. Second, there was the discussion for the Society to begin its own auction program, similar to that of some other clubs. For this latter program to be successful, there would have to be a volunteer who would dedicate the appropriate amount of time necessary to make it successful. Comments on these concepts should be addressed to the Society.

The meeting was adjourned with the announcement that the next meeting will be held at the summer ANA in Chicago during August.



THANK YOU TOM CROGAN!

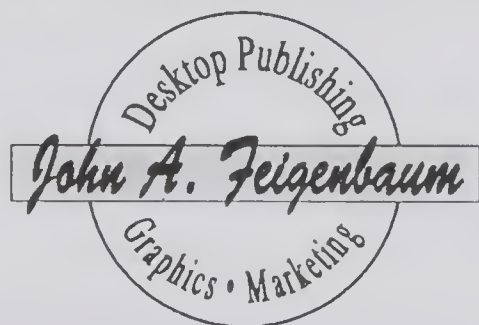
Until last year, Tom Crogan was known to me by name only through his classified ads in *Coin World* and *Numismatic News*. Then he joined the Barber Society. Active in Texas area Coin Clubs for many years, Tom had a lot to offer our Society. And offer he did.

Through his "Comments and Controversy" articles, we are presented candid opinions about some of the more controversial aspects of our hobby. Not seeking friends or attempting to promote his small coin business, Tom speaks out with principle and conviction, because he really cares about the hobby.

As if the articles were enough help to the Society, Tom then proceeded to donate time and money to running ads in the "Classified" sections of *Coin World* and *Numismatic News* to attract new members, as well as writing his business acquaintances about the Society. The result: 37 new members since the beginning of the year. These are only some of the examples of Tom's personal support for our Society.

Looking forward to finally meeting Tom at the ANA winter show in Dallas, I received bad news in the form of a card from his wife saying that he'd been taken ill and would not be able to make the show.

On behalf of the Society, I want to wish Tom a full and speedy recovery and recognize him as well for his unselfish contribution to our Society.



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SELLING BARBER HALVES

1893	VF+ ...\$ 85	1906	VF\$ 50	1911 S	VF\$ 60
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	VF72	1906 O	F+35		VF+.....65
1895 S	VF+125	1907	VF50	1912 D	F24
1897	F25		XF.....130		VF.....52
1898	F25	1907 O	F25	1912 S	F26
	VF+70		VF50		F+33
1899	F+28		VF+75	1913 D	F32
1899 S	VF dark63		dirty obv.		VF.....65
1900	F25	1908 D	F25	1913 S	F34
1900 S	VF+90		VF50	1914 S	VF+.....90
	XF.....175	1908 O	F25	1915 D	F24
1901	F24		VF50	1915 S	F24
	VF+70	1909	F24		F+29
1902	F+30		AXF90		VF.....50
	VF+70	1909 O	F36		
1902 O	XF.....150	1909 S	F25		
lt. scratch on face			VF55		
1904	VF50	1910	F1243		
1904 O	VF85	1910 S	F25		
scratch on rev		1911	F24		

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THE QUARTER THAT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN The Barbers Are Still Challenging But Unappreciated by R.W Julian

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Today the Barber quarter dollar is coming back into its own among collectors, after a long period during which the series was generally ignored. It is now recognized by many that the quality of this coinage is much better than previously thought.

The recent Norweb II sale (Bowers and Merena, March 1988) featured a 1901-S Barber quarter which brought \$17,600 in MS-64 condition. The 1896-O brought \$10,450. Yet in ordinary condition, the typical Barber quarter is easily affordable for the average collector of limited means. Some of the lower-grade pieces can actually be purchased for little more than bullion value.

In a manner of speaking, this is a coin that easily might not have been.

During the U.S. Civil War, coined silver had been hoarded or exported to Central America or Canada, and from 1862 to 1873 the public saw little in the way of silver coins. Beginning in 1873, the government had made an all-out effort to put silver back into circulation and had succeeded. By the middle of 1877, the country was awash in silver.

Then came one of those strange events which baffled contemporary observers and still causes difficulties for modern observers seeking to understand our monetary history. Much of the silver which had flowed abroad in 1862 suddenly came back in massive quantities; not only was the silver struck since 1873 in widespread use, but now coins struck before the Civil War were seen everywhere. It was a coin collector's dream, but more of a nightmare for banks and merchants.

Protests were soon reaching the Treasury from nearly every corner, complaining about the massive amounts of silver coinage in circulation. Much of this was flowing into the subtreasuries, and government vaults were filling quickly to capacity with unwanted coins. Treasury Secretary John Sherman took the only action warranted under the circumstances: He ordered minor silver coinage stopped at all of the mints.

Because of the interdiction of small silver, the collector has some difficulty finding dimes, quarters and half dollars issued for circulation in the late 1870s and early 1880s. Proof coins are readily available, for a price, but not those pieces struck for the general public. The Philadelphia Mint was the only facility striking such coinage and it was intended mainly for those who needed new coins. Collectors of the period were able to obtain uncirculated coins in reasonable quantities, but usually did not because proofs were available.

The dimes in the Treasury hoard were the first to become exhausted, and in 1882 regular coinage resumed at Philadelphia, followed in 1884 by San Francisco. New Orleans did not find such coinage necessary until 1891. Evidently, government vaults especially overflowed in the South with the pre-Civil War coinage that returned—certainly an irony of sorts.

Throughout the 1880s, the government stockpile of quarters and half dollars slowly dwindled. In early 1888, the stockpile of quarters on the West Coast became exhausted and the San Francisco Mint struck 1.2 million pieces, but it did not coin this denomination again until 1891.

Early in 1891, subtreasury employees in the East also saw their hoard of quarters become exhausted and orders were given to the Philadelphia Mint to resume coinage. Half dollars followed a few months later, and by late 1891 all the minor silver coins were being struck in quantity for the first time since 1877.

During the 1870s, there had been occasional agitation for a change in design because the Seated Liberty coins had been around since 1837. George T. Morgan was brought from England in 1876 by Mint director H.R. Linderman to redesign this silver coinage, but the sudden inpouring of silver coins from abroad in 1877 put an end to this idea and Morgan went on to produce his famous silver dollar instead.

In the late 1880s, Mint Director James P. Kimball decided that the time was ripe for the redesigning of minor silver coins and organized a contest for doing just that. The attempt failed, and Kimball left office in 1889 without achieving this aim. His successor, Edward O. Leech, was to have considerably more success.

Leech's first attempt in 1891, like that of his predecessor, was a resounding failure as the entries were not up to anybody's standards. In desperation, Leech held a contest among the engravers at the Philadelphia Mint (Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber, George Morgan and William Key). Leech chose Barber's work and gave him the commission to redesign the minor silver coinage.

Throughout the summer and fall of 1891, Barber spent every spare moment working on the project. The director mandated certain aspects of the designs and Barber had little choice except to follow these ideas closely. Leech ordered that the current French head of Liberty, as it appeared on France's coinage, be used as a rough model for the U.S. version. Further, he decreed that the reverse of the quarter and half dollar must depict the Great Seal of the United States.

A pattern quarter dollar of 1891 does exist, but it is from an intermediate stage of Barber's work. Most of the patterns were made as half dollars so that government officials could more easily see the artwork; in November 1891, President Benjamin Harrison and his Cabinet made the final design choices.

Once the decision had been transmitted to Philadelphia, Mint Superintendent Oliver Bosbyshell asked for permission to delay coinage until all the problems had been worked out of the new design. Director Leech refused this request and ordered that coinage begin at the earliest possible moment in January 1892 for all denominations. On the morning of Jan. 2, this order was duly carried out; Barber coinage was now a reality.

Dime and half dollar coinage proceeded with few problems, but it was soon noticed that the quarters did not stack properly and Barber was forced to carry out modifications to his designs. The head was lowered on the obverse but the reverse of the Barber quarter received more serious changes, which are more easily detected. The letters "TE" of UNITED are more or less covered by the wing tip. The first hub (master die) covers part of the letter "T," but the second (revised) hub does not cover any of this letter. The change can be seen down to fairly low grades of 1892 coins for all three mints.

Coins from the first hub for all mints are scarcer than those of the second hub, indicating that the change was made soon after coinage began. In 1900, Barber reported that no record had been kept of the number of dies of each type, so we will never know the actual coinage of the different varieties.

The 1892-S quarter (Variety I) has an odd "error" on one of the dies. The mint mark was first punched in as a small letter and then the decision was made to use another, much larger punch. This curiosity can normally be seen only on high-grade coins, as wear blurs the repunching. The MS-65 piece in Norweb II brought \$3,520, but it is not clear whether the high price was due to condition or the mint mark oddity – or both.

With minor exceptions, the coinage of Barber quarters in the 1890s was very strong and specimens are available of most dates at reasonable prices. In VF-20, certainly an acceptable grade for most collections, the average Barber quarter of the era sells for under \$30 and sometimes under \$20. In EF-40, the price range is considerably greater, but still the collector can obtain specimens at from \$60 to \$80 in most cases. In MS-60, the price floor seems to be about \$300, and most of these coins go to type sets.

During 1900-1901, Barber executed another set of hubs for both obverse and reverse. Minor problems had arisen during the 1890s and the new hubs were meant to solve these difficulties. (The principal complaint was that the coins of 1892-1900 were thinner than previous quarters). There were no further changes through the end of the series in 1916.

The hub changes of 1900-1901 may be detected in several ways. The obverse of the new hub shows a center cartilage in Liberty's ear (the hub of 1892-1900 does not have this feature), and there are also changes in the ribbon ends behind Liberty's head.

The new reverse dies have the eagle's wing extending beyond the "E" of UNITED; in the previous hubs, this did not happen. There are other minor changes, as well. At present, only the 1900 issues are known to have come from both hubs; 1901 quarters are known solely from the revised hubs.

There was a lack of demand for quarters on the West Coast in 1901, resulting in a small coinage at San Francisco during that year. Only 72,644 pieces were struck there, making this one of the most difficult issues for the collector to find in a better grade. As noted earlier, the Norweb II specimen brought nearly \$18,000; meanwhile, a G-4 still managed a respectable \$726. It is not often that a coin in this grade is worth that much.

One of the minor mysteries of 1902 is found in the records of the Philadelphia Mint. There is an entry in a silver coinage ledger that 967 quarter dollars "Porta [Puerto] Rican" were executed. (The annual coinage report shows that 12,196,967 coins—plus 777 proofs—were struck at the mint during the year).

The meaning of the above entry is unknown, but it does raise interesting questions. If the coinage was actually Puerto Rican, then why were the totals included with the regular coinage report for 1901? The year 1902 also signals a change in mintage reports. Until that time (except for 1898), the extra number above a given even figure (say, 12,300,000) always represented proofs, but from 1902 through 1906 and again in 1914 an odd number appears.

There was special Spanish coinage for Puerto Rico in 1896, before it was taken over by the United States, but there is no known reference to special pattern coinage for the island after America gained control. Perhaps some future numismatist will uncover the reason for this curious entry made so many decades ago.

Quarters struck after 1900, with certain exceptions, are even more available than those dated prior to 1900. For several of these issues, especially the larger coinages by the Philadelphia Mint, the collector can easily locate VF-20 coins for under \$20; it is also likely that several of the coins with a book value in the \$20 to \$25 range can be obtained for under \$20 with careful shopping.

A few coins from the years after 1907 are scarcer than those of preceding years and do bring higher prices in better grades. The 1908-S is a prime example of this trend: The collector will have to pay about \$40 for a decent VF-20 specimen, while the tab will be about \$90 in EF-40.

The 1909-O is somewhat more valuable than its mintage (712,000 pieces) would indicate. There is considerable interest among certain collectors in obtaining the New Orleans coinage for that mint's last year of operation. This has driven prices up, and in VF-20 the book value for this date is \$70—considerably higher than for the 1908-S, a coin of a comparable mintage. In XF-40, the cost is around \$175.

The final years of the Barber design are marked by some coins of great rarity (the 1913-S) alongside others that are extremely common (the 1916-D). The 1916-D is the most common coin of the entire series and could be taken from circulation as late as the early 1950s. Even the 1916 struck at Philadelphia (fewer than two million minted) are considered common due to widespread hoarding of coins from the final year of issue.

In VF-20, the 1913-S books at more than \$1,000 and the collector will experience difficulty in obtaining a decent specimen. Grades below Fine are the most often seen, while higher grades are rare. In MS-65, the 1913-S should bring between \$9,000 and \$10,000, even though the book value is slightly less; the present market for quality coins dictates higher prices.

In late 1915, the Treasury decided to replace the Barber quarter, as the statutory 25-year minimum for use of the design was due to be attained in 1916. Late in 1916, the first specimens of the Standing Liberty quarter, designed by Hermon MacNeil, were produced.

It was the end of an era. The Barber coinage had symbolized an America of a different age, and now the new coinage would bring forth an image of a country ready to enter the modern world.



GOOD TO VERY GOOD GRADE BARBER QUARTERS

by Bill Cregan

Several years ago, before it became popular to collect Barber series coins in higher circulated grades, they were gathered in good to very good condition preservation; to meet the demands of true collectors building sets of their favorite denominations.

The better dates were in special demand by collectors, particularly in the quarter series. A 1909-O quarter, was worth much more than the more common 1909-D, according to a 1964 edition of R.S. Yeoman's famous Red Book, or Guide to United States Coins. Similarly, a 1908-S quarter was valued in multiples over the more mundane 1908-O coin.


The general pricing pattern for the better date coins in the Barber quarter series in the lower circulated grades were for the most part many multiples more than the common dates in the 1964 edition Red Book, because of basic collector demand.

But when inspecting today's 1990 Yeoman's Redbook the pricing pattern between the common and scarce date Barber quarters in good to very good grades is starkly different. The pricing gap between common and scarce coins is indeed negligible, and in some cases these lower condition coins are priced less than they were in 1964. This situation could mean opportunity for the Barber coin enthusiast on a budget or who is simply interested in making some good coin finds at an even better buy.

As the traditional pastime of coin collecting is revived, hopefully more collectors will become interested in these desirable coins that have been ignored for more than 20 years. Several of these Barber quarter dates are uncommon or even scarce in good to very good grades.

Myself, as well as other experienced collectors, know better than to look down on any nicely preserved good to very good better date Barber quarter, especially if the coin is mintmarked. This habit may clash with the

general coin market that perceives well worn Barber quarters as junk silver destined to be melted and restamped into a \$39.95 Disney cartoon character medallion.

Someday these choice good to very good Barber quarters will get the attention that they deserve, and the more perceptive collectors holding these coins will profit monetarily but even more importantly, provide the coins for new collectors entering the Big Leagues of collecting, Barber Quarters. 

STRIKES AND GRADING BARBER DIMES

by Russell Easterbrook


I have found through many years of looking at Barber Dimes, that there are many contributing factors to the grading of these little coins. One of these is the condition of the dies, as no other factor contributes more to the appearance of a coin before it sees circulation.

A coin struck from dies that have seen heavy polishing will lack detail and will often look worn. Dies that saw heavy use or clashed on occasion saw a fair amount of polishing. Sometimes these polishing marks can be seen as tiny scratches of raised metal. They are usually seen close to Liberty's neck or around the words ONE DIME. Polishing may actually remove some of the die, causing grain kernels, tips of leaves and other fine detail to be missing from the coins' surface.

Cracked dies also mean a weaker struck coin. Cracked dies usually can be seen by the appearance of hair like cracks of raised metal on the coins' surface, or sometimes even small 'globs' of metal. This allows metal which would normally be part of the design to escape into the crack, whereby, not allowing the coins' design to be as sharp. Most often this is seen on the Reverse of dimes. One New Orleans issue I own has 6 cracks on the Reverse and 1 on the Obverse, meaning that die saw heavy use.

All the mints were subject to these die conditions but most New Orleans issued dimes were weakly struck and fewer dies were used for a longer period of time. Most often this weak strike is seen in the hair above Liberty's eye which may show no hair detail, the word liberty may be very weak and the bands edges unclear. On the Reverse, veins in the leaves may be very smooth, the ear of corn may lack kernel detail and the grain kernels may be half their normal size.

To the untrained eye an XF or AU New Orleans dime may be graded VF. This is good to know if you are buying the coin, but it should also be noted that there are well struck coins too, and they should bring a very high premium.

Next time you're looking at some Barber dimes ask yourself if what you see is strike or wear. Check the mint mark and try to "feel" what you see. The more dimes you look at, the more you will see. 

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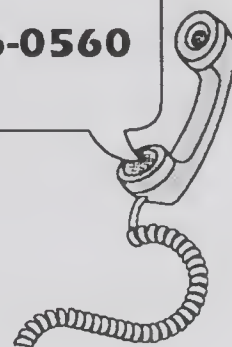
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INTERESTING SIDELIGHT CONCERNING SOME HIGH GRADE LOVEJOY BARBER DIMES

by Phil Carrigan

I discussed in some detail the auction performance of the Allen Lovejoy Barber Dimes sold recently by Stack's (see BCCS Journal #3, 1990). My purpose now is to examine the source of several particularly high grade coins in the Lovejoy Collection.

As you may recall, the Stack's catalog provided information on the provenance of each coin using Allen Lovejoy's extensive purchase notes (each of us would be benefited by following his example). The source of several highgrade Barbers was a specific New Netherlands Coin Co. sale held on April 24, 1954. The Barber Dimes Lovejoy purchased that afternoon in 1954 as detailed by Stack's are shown in Table 1 along with the grade assigned. One will note that the highest graded specimens shown in Table 1 were third-party graded, a practice selectively used for the Lovejoy Reference Dime Collection.

When I initially reviewed this sale catalog, I was struck in learning that the highest graded Barber Dimes came from this one 1954 sale. Why, and why only these later dates for the most part? The answer seemed to reside in the New Netherlands sale catalog which I subsequently borrowed from the ANA Library.

The history of New Netherlands and their auction sales during the 1950s and 60s is particularly interesting and has been discussed by Hodder & Bowers (1). Suffice to say here that most of the cataloging was performed by Walter Breen and John Ford. Additionally, it has been reported that coins were frequently undergraded slightly to minimize return of lots by buyers.

In early December, the ANA librarian responded in a timely fashion with a copy of this catalog. Its front page (see Figure 1) provides rather extensive information concerning what was consigned to this 971-lot sale, although any mention of Barbers is lacking. In turning to the lots originating from this sale (see Figure 2), one is clearly underwhelmed by the catalog descriptions. The four lots purchased by Lovejoy were obtained with bids ranging from \$6 to \$8 (per lot)! Compare these prices to other lots in this sale: 1919-S half dollar "...weakly struck ... BU ... attractively toned" at \$280 or a 1925-S five cents "Unc, weakly struck" at \$7.

Certainly, Mr Lovejoy purchased some lovely Barber Dimes that afternoon, thirty-seven years ago. However, depending on one's perspective, some of his acquisitions were more lovely than others. This is readily illustrated in the New Netherlands description for lot 778 and then noting that the 1901 (graded BU) was sold by Stack's for \$140 while the 1907-0 realized \$5250 (graded NGC MS66). Today's fine points in grading were not of concern in 1954, what was referred to as 'tarnish' is lovely toning today (with allowances for further changes over the 37 years hence). Additionally, one should note that the Barber Dime lots Allen Lovejoy purchased in this sale

BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY
CIRCULATED BARBER HALF RARITY RATINGS

RARITY RATING GUIDE

- | <u>Ratings</u> | <u>Definition of Rarity Ratings</u> |
|----------------|---|
| R1 | - <u>Common</u> ; Readily available. |
| R2 | - <u>Less Common</u> ; Available at most shows, but in limited quantity. |
| R3 | - <u>Scarce</u> ; Somewhat difficult to find, only a few likely to be found at larger shows. |
| R4 | - <u>Very Scarce</u> ; May or may not find any at large shows. On most Collector want lists. |
| R5 | - <u>Rare</u> ; Unlikely more than 5 may appear at larger shows or auctions in a year's time. |
| R6 | - <u>Very Rare</u> ; Almost never found. One may not appear for sale in a year's time. |
| R7 | - <u>Prohibitively Rare</u> ; Only one may appear for sale every few years. |
| R8 | - <u>Unique</u> ; Or almost so. |

Instructions: Place the appropriate Rarity Rating in each box.

	<u>G/VG</u>	<u>F/VF</u>	<u>XF/AU</u>	<u>G/VG</u>	<u>F/VF</u>	<u>XF/AU</u>
1892				1904-S		
1892-0				1905		
1892-S				1905-0		
1893				1905-S		
1893-0				1906		
1893-S				1906-D		
1894				1906-0		
1894-0				1906-S		

1895-0					1907-0
1895-S					1907-S
1896					1908
1896-0					1908-D
1896-S					1908-0
1897					1908-S
1897-0					1909
1897-S					1909-0
1898					1909-S
1898-0					1910
1898-S					1910-S
1899					1911
1899-0					1911-D
1899-S					1911-S
1900					1912
1900-0					1912-D
1900-S					1912-S
1901					1913
1901-0					1913-D
1901-S					1913-S
1902					1914
1902-0					1914-S
1902-S					1915
1903					1915-D
1903-0					1915-S
1903-S					
1904					
1904-0					

Return to: BCCS, Rarity Rating Guide, P.O. 382246, Memphis, TN 38183-2246

Figure 1. Front page of auction catalog

SALE NUMBER 43

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CHARLES M. WORMSER, Pres. JOHN J. FORD, JR., Associate

Figure 2
(below).
Sample listing
from New
Netherlands'
auction catalog

- 776 **Dimes.** 1892 and 1897. Tarnished and toned Unc., the last choice. 2 Pcs.
777 1898 and 1899. Unc. First tarnished, last fully brilliant. Catalog at \$8.00. 2 Pcs.
778 1901 and 1907 "O". Unc. Mostly brilliant and tarnished. The 1901 with microscopic handling defects as commonly found, and the mint mark rather weakly struck, both characteristics limited to the respective abverses. Worth \$7.50. 2 Pcs.
779 1908 "D", 11 and 1912. Uncirculated, though lightly tarnished, the second particularly so. 3 Pcs.
780 1913 and 1914. Tarnished Unc. These both need to be cleaned. 2 Pcs.
781 1915, 16 and 1916 "S". First brilliant Unc., but with same reverse fingermark tarnish. Last two lustrous, and though acquired as Uncirculated, not very choice. List at \$11.00 in the Guidebook. 3 Pcs.
782 1918 "S". Brill. Unc. A sharply struck and highly desirable example.
783 1936. Evenly toned Proof. From the first issue, sold early in the year. V. Scarce.
784 Another. A brilliant Proof of the second issue. Tarnished, but still highly desirable, and bound to steadily increase in value.

were retained by him without upgrading. Thus, I would speculate he considered the two coins in lot 778 to be about equal in quality.

Some of you may suspect I have an interest in early auction sales and catalogs. I enjoy finding the historical record of the past in numismatics, particularly seeing the appearance of famous rarities long ago. This present endeavor was equally pleasing to me but it underscores the difficulty of assessing the quality of material sold in the past. One general guiding principle in these explorations through auction sales is the historical score card on the auction firm (e.g., longevity, name sales, commentaries by numismatic writers).

I hope my brief journey to the numismatic past via an auction sale is of interest to BCCS members and may stimulate others to look into some aspect of this rich history.

Bibliography

- 1. M. Hodder and Q.D. Bowers, "The Norweb Collection," 1987 Bowers and Merena Galleries, Wolfeboro, p190.

Table 1. Listing of Barber Dimes from the Lovejoy Reference Dime Collection (sold by Stack's, October 1990). Originally obtained in the New Netherlands 43rd Sale.

Date	Lot	Description	Hammer Price
1901	532	BU, few tiny marks	\$ 140.
1907 O	559	NGC MS-66, 'O' repunched	5,250.
1908 D	563	NGC MS-66, double date	5,500.
1911	577	NGC MS-67	6,500.
1912	581	NGC MS-65	1,500.
1913	585	NGC MS-64, light slide marks on cheek	525.
1914	588	NGC MS-65	1,500.
1915	592	NGC MS-65	1,550.
1916	594	BU+ near choice, somewhat muted luster	170.
1916 S	595	chBU	300.



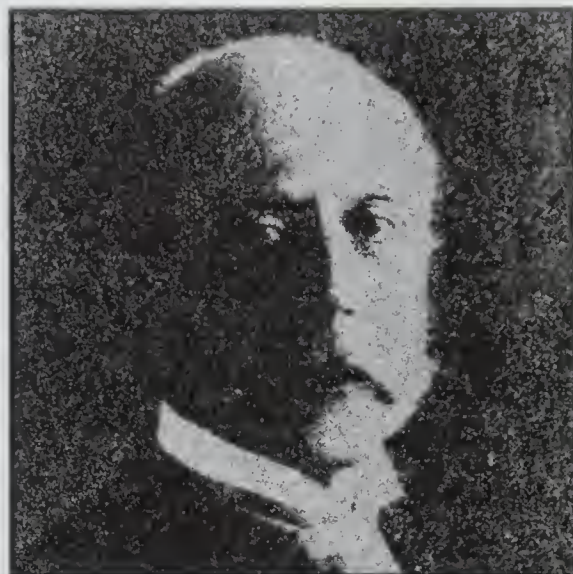
CHARLES E. BARBER: ENGRAVER ARTIST

by Thomas S. LaMarre

*Appeared in Bowers & Merena's Kingswood Galleries' Dartmouth Sale catalog.
Reprinted with permission from Dave Bowers. Thank you, Dave.*

A Family of Engravers

Charles Edward Barber is often portrayed as an egotistical hothead who was determined to sabotage coinage designs submitted by outside artists. Although there is probably some truth in this characterization, Barber should also be remembered as a skilled engraver and gifted artist. His 48-year tenure at the U.S. Mint was marked by a prolific outpouring of coinage and medal designs.



Born in London November 16, 1846, Charles was the son of William and Anna Barber and came from a long line of distinguished engravers. William Barber was a die maker for the prestigious firm of De La Rue and Company before immigrating to the United States to improve his financial position. The Barber family settled in Boston and a few years later William accepted a job with the Gorham Silverware Company of Providence, Rhode Island. Some time around 1863, he met James B. Longacre, chief engraver at the U.S. Mint. In 1865 Barber joined the Mint's staff as assistant engraver. After Longacre died on New Year's Day 1869, William was appointed chief engraver and his son Charles was named assistant engraver. William H. Key and George T. Morgan would also serve as assistant engravers.

William Barber, designer of the trade dollar, 20-cent piece, and numerous patterns, died in 1879. President Rutherford B. Hayes then appointed Charles the sixth chief engraver of the U.S. Mint.

Numismatic biographer Leonard Forrer praised Barber's artistic ability and said that the chief engraver was "particularly interested in 'catching a likeness'." This talent was evident in his designs for the 1883 Hawaiian dime, quarter, half dollar and dollar.

After visiting Europe in 1881, King Kalakaua was convinced that Hawaii needed a new national coinage. Patterns were ordered to be struck, but none of the proposed designs met with the king's approval. At this point his adviser and friend, Claus Spreckels, encouraged the monarch to contract the U.S. Mint for the production of \$1 million in silver coins. As chief engraver, Barber was ultimately responsible for the design, and he succeeded where others had failed.

On the obverse of all four denominations was the head of the king,

while the reverse of the quarter, half, and dollar carried the royal coat of arms. The motto on the reverse, translated as "The life of the land is in righteousness," was among the most grandiose in coinage history. Because of space limitations, the reverse of the dime consisted of a crown, wreath and inscriptions. This design variation was to have its counterpart in Barber's Liberty Head series of U.S. coins.

The Liberty Nickel

Barber's first U.S. coinage design was the Liberty Head nickel, which made its debut in 1883 and was described by Forrer as "a successful venture in very low relief work" Apparently Barber thought that the large "V" on the reverse was sufficient to indicate the denomination. However, unscrupulous individuals plated the new nickels in order to pass them as \$5 gold pieces, forcing Barber to add the inscription CENTS below the wreath on the reverse side.

Barber's skill as an engraver gave the Liberty Head motif new life, but many Americans were tired of the Seated Liberty figure that had appeared on the nation's silver coins since the 1830s. Writing to the Secretary of the Treasury in 1887, Director of the Mint James P. Kimball said that he was aware of "a popular desire for an improvement of the coinage in the respect to the present designs as prescribed by law."

"The designs impressed upon the coins of any nation, ancient or modern, are accepted as an expression of the art of their time," he added. "But few citizens, who, with an artistic sense, having carefully scrutinized the current coins of this Republic, would consent to accept as a standard of excellence for their own day and generation almost any of the present compositions of statutory devices. The inferiority of our coinage to the same kind of work by almost every other advanced nation of the earth, as well as to the wellknown work of numerous able designers in relief at home, seems to be perceived by all who have given attention to the subject, and to be keenly felt by many as unworthy of the development which the arts of sculpture and designs have here attained."

"The series of United States coins, past and present, taken as a whole, is not without meritorious designs, even within the narrow limits of traditional, and later statutory devices. But whatever art value be attributed to any of the series seems to be in the impressions from certain long superseded dies."

In 1890 Congress passed a law authorizing the Treasury Department to create new coinage designs after existing designs had been in use for 25 years or more. Ten artists were invited to submit models, but they backed out because of dissatisfaction with the rules of the competition, the questionable qualifications of the judges, and the meager compensation that was being offered.

Treasury officials then decided to stage an open competition, with

Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Henry Mitchell and Charles Barber, serving as judges. None of the entries was seen as an improvement over existing designs. By default, the assignment went to Barber, who had asserted that only he was capable of performing the work.

Barber Resents Criticism

Barber was annoyed by what he perceived to be the meddling of Mint officials. When Director Edward O. Leech criticized the reverse of a pattern for the quarter dollar, the chief engraver's patience ran out. "I am quite willing to make any change in design," he said, "provided the suggestion in my mind is a good one, but I must ask that criticism come to an end before I am too far advanced with the die...."

Leech replied: "I do not like this spirit which resents criticism and suggestions which are actuated by a kindly spirit and which have the tendency to beautify our coins, instead of being resented, or any time limit placed upon them, should be most cheerfully received and due consideration given to their merits."

As was often the case when new designs were introduced, critics blasted the new silver coins released in 1892, though none of their comments has stood the test of time. An editorial in *The Numismatist* said that the designs were about the most that could be expected of "institutional art." Another critic said that Miss Liberty had "the throat of a gladiator." Writing in the *American Journal of Numismatics*, W.T.R. Marvin disapproved the "fullness in Miss Liberty's upper lip, saying that it detracted from her expression. Disparaging comments in a *Harper's* article so infuriated Barber that he complained to Leech, who told him not to worry.

Not surprisingly. Barber was reticent while designing the obverse of the 1892-93 Columbian Exposition half dollars. When a reporter for the *Savannah News* asked him what the coins would look like, Barber facetiously said they would be "very much like half dollars."

Criticism arose even before the coins were released. "The picture of Columbus upon the souvenir coins will be ideal, so it is stated," the *San Francisco Examiner* reported. "It is not altogether clear how it could be anything else, since the roving gentleman whose bones rest in a pair of tombs neglected to leave any authentic portrait. Those available range from figures of a pallid student to a bewhiskered brigand. each probably as wrong as the other."

Examining an early model of the half dollar, *The Numismatist* said that the portrait of Columbus was "probably as authentic as any of the many. But the expression is too childlike and bland to suit our ideal of the stern man who boldly pushed out into the unknown. and whose determined efforts gave us a new world."

The *Illustrated American* called the half dollar "ugly: *The Boston Globe*

lamented, "The first view of the new Columbian souvenir coin inevitably leads to an expression of regret that Columbus wasn't a better looking man."

In a similar vein, the *Philadelphia Ledger* chided, "If it were not known in advance whose vignette adorns the Columbian souvenir half dollar, the average observer would be undecided as to whether it is intended to represent Daniel Webster or Henry Ward Beecher."

Undaunted, Barber went on to design the 1893 Isabella quarter, Lafayette dollar (dated 1900 but struck in 1899), 1903 Louisiana Purchase Exposition gold dollar, 1904-05 Lewis and Clark Exposition gold dollar, 1915-S Panama-Pacific Exposition quarter eagle (obverse), and 1916-17 McKinley Memorial gold dollar.

A \$2 Coin Proposal

One of the Barber commemoratives that "might have been" was a silver \$2 coin honoring the 1907 Jamestown Exposition. Organizers of the Exposition asked the government to issue one million of the coins, with each piece containing silver valued at only \$1.20.

"As the Exposition authorities would simply bring the silver bullion to the Mint and get a coin which would pass for legal tender for \$2 by presenting bullion that cost them \$1.20 there would be a net profit to the Exposition of a cool \$800,000." said *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*.

"The scheme looked beautifully attractive on paper, and the promoters were gleefully rubbing their hands over the prospect of this snug sum of velvet money, when along came Secretary Shaw and threw a wet blanket on the proposition, so to speak. Secretary Shaw says the plan is a bad one from the governmental point of view: that it is unprecedented. and would be calculated to affect the stability of our currency. He opposes any tampering with our financial affairs for the benefit of any exposition, and his opinions are very likely to have prepondering influence.... It is pretty certain that the \$2 silver coin for Jamestown has gone glimmering."

Similarly, Barber's role as coinage designer went "glimmering" when President Theodore Roosevelt opened the door to outside artists. Barber was left with the unsavory chore of preparing the models for production and ensuring that the designs created by other artists would strike up properly. Conflict was inevitable, for it is a rare artist who will let another tamper with his work.

Barber's confrontations with Augustus Saint Gaudens' assistant, Henry Hering, are well documented. Hering himself told of "a bad feeling among the officials of the Mint" while designs for new \$10 and \$20 gold pieces were being readied.

When Victor D. Brenner's initials were removed from the Lincoln cent in 1909 because they were too conspicuous, *The Numismatist* pointed an accusing finger at Barber. "The origin of cause of these criticisms has been

traced to Philadelphia and Washington," it said, "from sources where selfish motives are not unknown when a coin type has been issued other than that produced by a government employee."

In 1916, when outside artists were commissioned to redesign the silver coinage, problems again erupted. At first, Standing Liberty quarter designer Hermon A. MacNeil found Barber to be "very cordial indeed," but MacNeil soon complained to the mint director about Barber's technique for making patterns:

"In the production of the dies, the former director of the Mint, Mr. Wooley, was anxious to have the coins left as they came from the sculptor's hands, without rubbing or burnishing on the background of the dies and so far as we can see, there is no reason why this should not be done, although Mr. Barber seems always very anxious to rub down the background as much as possible, which gives the coin a very unpleasant and metallic look.

"It would be a great pleasure to me and I am sure also to Mr. Weinman, if you find yourself in accordance with this point of view and if so, would instruct the engraver to carefully follow it."

In the latter part of 1916, the Barber series of coins gave way to the Winged Liberty Head dime, Standing Liberty quarter and Walking Liberty half dollar. Barber died February 18, 1917.

"Mr. Charles E. Barber, chief engraver of the United States Mint, died last Sunday afternoon very suddenly:" Charles Warner wrote in *Mehl's Numismatic Monthly*. "Mr. Barber was in the 75th year of his age.... Mr. George Morgan will no doubt succeed to the place of chief engraver. There is no doubt but what (Barber's) grand collection will be sold someday. It is said that he was the possessor of the grandest and very rarest pattern pieces that were ever known."

Today, Barber's collection of patterns is something of a mystery. The ANA Resource Center has no catalogue of the Barber collection. Nor does Kenneth E. Bressett, editor of *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, have any knowledge of such a collection. Perhaps it changed hands in a private sale. Or, like disparaging remarks about Barber's talent, the story about the collection may have been unsubstantiated.



NEW

Barber Coin Collectors' Society Literary Award

(see page 9 for details)

WHAT A RELIEF

by Joe Haney

With each new edition of the BCCS Journal I pick up, I can't help but notice how little the mint state and slabbed coins are talked about. It is a relief to see very fine and extra fine coins spoken of in many articles and related to in exalted terms. Many coins in just good and very good are held in high regards as well. I see a pattern forming that tells us there is still a collector base out there interested in this type of material and as a result we see the material gobbled up as soon as it hits the marketplace. This seems to be more prevalent in the Barber quarters and dimes. The half dollars as I see it are dragging behind a little, although I am sure there are some out there that will give me a good argument to the contrary.

More and more I see the Barber series as the bread and butter of a lot of collectors. It seems they have known for some time that a nice set of very fine to extra fine Barber coins are a most respected and worthy collection to assemble. Of course there are those that will advance to the higher grades of about uncirculated and uncirculated but from what I can learn, these are not as difficult to locate as the next lower grade.

My first interest in coins was always Indian head cents. They were always plentiful and rather inexpensive. As in every series there were a few drawbacks but they were seldom thought of until later years when most collectors' means improved a bit and a dollar bill didn't have to be squeezed so hard. I guess this (expense) is one of the reasons why a good many of us shied away from the silver coins. Too expensive for a limited budget.

Oh what a mistake this bit of logic was. I was always taught (although I did not always follow the rule) to buy the best you could afford. I could not afford an uncirculated or about uncirculated Barber coin of any series then and come to think of it, I still can't on most dates. What of the many fine, very fine, and extremely fine coins I passed up over the years? I am quite sure a nice respected set of Barber coins could have been put away over the past forty years for but a small fraction of their value today. Like most things in life, we can not look back. But we can learn.

What I have been trying to do recently is check out all Barber coins at the clubs I belong to (5) and the auctions I attend. About five to eight a month. I look for the sleepers to purchase. I started by just looking for the variety coins (a throwback from my search of Indian head cents for repunched dates and the like). Just this exposure to the series has taught me the strength and pure beauty of these coins Charles Barber introduced to us, all but a hundred years ago. I have completed all three sets, with a good many in very fine and up.

I have to admit, I do not collect coins as most. I am never in a hurry to complete a set. I will not go out just to upgrade or buy a particular coin. The sets will take care of themselves sooner or later. After all I am only in my mid

sixties and there is plenty of time. I would rather go to an auction and look for the coin that is undergraded or wait for one that is knocked down for a figure far below market value. If you are diligent enough you will find a few coins in most auctions that fall into this category. If not, remember there is always another coin and always another auction. If you want to call me cheap, go right ahead, but I would rather you call me frugal.

Other favorites of mine are the sets, partial sets, groups, and accumulations. Check these out carefully. Remember one coin in a partial set in an album might be worth more than your winning bid for the entire lot. Many auction goers will not take the time to check out the groups. Don't you make this mistake. If the coins are from an estate, be a little more diligent. Remember these coins are probably being put up by someone other than the person that assembled the collection and they might not really know the value of the coins they are selling. A good many of the smaller auction houses also have no idea of what they are selling, nor do some of them care. Anything, and I do mean anything, can be found in this type of material. How about a partial set of Barber quarters with a 1901-S in G/AG polished, for a little over silver price? Again, remember, Look, Look, Look. You won't be sorry. I just hope that if you do take this advice, none of you find the auctions I attend!

An example of this was a recent auction that featured a complete set of Barber quarters broken down into basic year sets. They were mostly lower grades with a few extremely fines. To figure out a price for one, two, three, and sometimes four coins with each coin being a different grade, took a bit of doing. After the first five or six lots were sold at high figures I thought my efforts of pricing each lot was for naught. The bids were 25% to double what I marked on my bid sheet in front of me. The 1908s were the first sleepers. They were listed as 1908-P, O, D, S in G to VF. Well the 08-P was a nice VF+, cleaned but respectable. The 08-O and D were G and VG. The 1908-S was the sleeper. It was a nice strong VF+, just the last shave and a hair cut of wear away from XF. I thought \$55 was a steal for the lot. It was not only a good buy by today's standard but a rather scarce coin for the grade to boot. The 1914-P, D, and S set was just icing on the cake. The 14-P was fine, the 14-D was VG, and the sleeper 1914-S a strong VG with just the ER of Liberty weak or partially missing. Believe it or not the reverse according to PHOTOGRADE says VF. Look these babies up and see if you would bid along with me at \$22. This one coin just goes to show that even a lowly, rather obscure, Barber quarter in only very good is still worth a second look. I didn't know if I had these coins in my collection or not. At those prices who cared. I was able to use the 1908-S. The others I will just hold and sell or trade when the time is right.

It's quite odd how the 1908-S and 1914-S Barber quarters were mentioned in the Winter BCCS Journal. Our president mentions the 1908-S as one of the tougher quarters to acquire on page 35. There is also a full page buying ad on page 16 for this coin. Bill Cregan did a real nice feature on the 1914-S. It's very unusual that I was able to purchase specimens of both dates

at the same auction for such a modest cost and have them featured a few days later in the Journal.

Before closing let me instill in you the importance of looking at the coins offered for sale, no matter where. You grade them. You check out the price. You look for the sleepers. Remember some good coins are extra fine, value wise and some extra fine coins are just good value wise. You have to be able to tell the difference. Stay with the BCCS club, read and study the Journal, and if possible get involved. Write an article. Each of us have had experiences that I am sure will make interesting reading and possibly help solve a problem of a fellow club member.



COMMENTS AND CONTROVERSY
by H.G. Tom Crogan

Could you make up a GRADING SET?

Using the following grades could you put together a Barber Dime, or a Barber Quarter, or a Barber Half Dollar Set if you had the coins and give a brief explanation of why the grade was given each piece and how it differs from the last piece with progression of wear?

Almost Good	AG3
Good	G4
Good Plus	G5
Good-Very Good	G6
About Very Good	VG7
Very Good	VG8
Very Good Plus	VG9
Very Good-Fine	VG10
About Fine	F11
Fine	F12
Fine Plus	F15
Fine-Very Fine	F18
About Very Fine	VF19

You say that the above grades are not correct? You think there are not as many grades as before? You better examine more closely the next extensive listing for both grades and price. Just because you see a Grade symbol don't thumb a Trend List for a price. The only one that does that is the Dealer you are selling coins to. If you will accept Grey Sheet BID for a FINE..(unless you have learned to grade) the price offered may be a whole lot lower than you'd think. If the coin is actually a F18, (which is half-way towards a VERY FINE) you not only are accepting the lowest written - printed value - even if he/she

shows you the CDN Newsletter...but you are also accepting the lowest possible grade for your coin. The Grey Sheet ASK price for the coin is generally 20% higher than the BID offers. Trends are then about 20% higher than ASK...and all these prices shown and offered are but a Guideline. Only the person selling the coin knows its value. A 1909-S Barber Dime is probably worth 25% more than any of the figures shown in BID - ASK - or TREND and yet many squirm if the seller asks that for any eye pleasing example. The seller could be you as well as the Dealer you are showing the coin.

It is necessary that you not only know how to grade but also know the slight variance in between other small point differences within grades. You don't find any written dialogue for the in-between grades and very little, if any descriptive points in low grades GOOD through FINE particularly on reverse gradings.

Not enough collectors have sufficient numbers of coins to make up a GRADING SET of any or all of the Barber Denominations. However, if you go through your sets and carefully grade out the coins, you may be able to set aside a working model for each. If they are in 2X2 or 1.5X1.5 holders, the placement in such, side by side in progressive order will make for an evening of study and enlightenment as the wear progression is followed with each coin's advancement in grade.


If you can see it...then try to define it in descriptive words. We await your findings.

All the Best



ODDS & ENDS

- In this issue of the Journal, we are finally getting around to doing a Circulated Barber Half Rarity Rating Survey. You'll find it in the centerfold. Results will be published in the next Journal.
- I am announcing with regret, the discontinuance of Barber Barter after this Journal. Submissions have been disappointing and some members have written that there is the potential for its use by dealers as free ad space. Members can still use the Classified section whether they are dealers or collectors and whether they wish to buy, sell, or trade. This should be fair to all and the additional classified revenue received (which has also been disappointing), should further offset the cost of Journal publication.
- As promised in a recent Journal, we have published in this issue (pages 35-37) Updated Barber Dime Uncirculated Population Rankings from combined PCGS and NGC Population reports. There are two reports. One list totals Uncirculated Population, broken down by grade; the other describes the MS64 and better population. There are some interesting surprises.

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- There was a lot of unusual activity in the bulk purchase of low grade Barbers at the recent Long Beach show. This would normally not be strange as silver is close to a 16 year low, were it not for the fact that prices were going for a very strong 7 or 8 times face value. Speculation has it that a newly-emerging European market is developing for our Society's favorite coin. If anybody knows more, I would appreciate them contacting the Society so that we may update our members.
 - Update on the **Collector Challenge**. John Kotch of Virginia appears to be in the lead with 14. R. Nelson of Florida is a close second with 10. Does anyone have more 1894 halves in Good?
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RECENT MEMBER FEEDBACK

Many of our renewing members recently provided their comments and suggestions on the Society. The vast majority of the comments were complimentary of our Society's early successes and are very much appreciated by all who have contributed to the success. There were some comments that merit sharing with members, along with responses to some of these comments:

- Some of our advertisers do not list a phone number. One member writes that when he places an order by mail, it's already sold. He would like to have a phone number listed for all advertisers.
- Another member would like to read stories from members on Barber coin finds.
- A member writes that he would like to see an article on "expert" cleaning of coins.
- One member writes that although he likes the medal design, it lacks continuity between the obverse and reverse. As an example, the reverse should have a dentilated border and reverse lettering should conform in style to obverse lettering

Publishers' Response: Both these comments have been communicated to the engraver who will see the dies are done correctly.

- Why is my membership number larger than the number of members we have?

Publishers' Response: Should a member not renew right away, I do not reissue their number, as some members have a funny way of renewing well into the year.

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- Is it possible to order commemorative medals with the lower numbers of members who have not renewed?

Publishers' Response: Numbers of non-renewing members will be available for commemorative orders for those members ordering more than one. Members specifying low numbers will first be assigned their own, then the lower numbers available will be assigned any additional medals they purchase.

- I'd like to see as many articles as possible on the "big 3" quarters.
- From a frustrated dealer member: I've had my shop 20 years. I try to treat my customers right. But it's awful when you have to make excuses to customers. "Oh, they are hard to buy, so you must pay more."
- Can we publish a directory of our members?

Publishers' Response: Many of our members indicated when they joined the Society that they do not want their name and address published or given to anyone. We have a responsibility to respect their wishes.

- What does the 'Y' after my membership number mean?

Publishers' Response: The 'Y' or 'N' after the membership number means that the member has (Yes) or has not (No) given permission for their name and address to be shared. 'D' means dealer.

- Any action on lifetime memberships?

Publishers' Response: Not yet.

- Would like to see articles on Barber pattern designs.

- How about a loose leaf for keeping the Journals?

Publishers' Response: At some point in the future I'd like to set up an article reprint service and back-dated Journal orders. At that point, loose leaf binders would be made available.

- I have many Barbers: 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢ I would like to trade. I especially want to upgrade as I have a complete set. Could a program be set up to allow members to submit their list of "tradable" material. I suggest a circuit be mailed to interested participants listing such coins. You could have several circuits. One for dimes, quarters and halves, and one for circulated coins G – F only or VF – AU. There could be a circuit director who would coordinate circuits. One would need some uniform system of numbering coins. I belong to a stamp club that does this and it works well.
- Would like to see more fresh material. It seems to me you're reprinting a lot of material in the quarterly as if your readers don't read other publications.

Publishers' Response: Barber article reprints are printed in our Journal to amass a single source for all Barber information. The Journal will serve as a convenient reference guide for years to come. I've also heard from a number of members who are seeing these reprints for the first time. Fresh articles are always welcome and members are encouraged to always share their knowledge with the Society.



BARBER DIME RARITY TABLE

UNCIRCULATED POPULATION: PCGS (1/1/91) & NGC (12/1/90)

DATE	TOTAL	MS60	MS61	MS62	MS63	MS64	MS65	MS66	MS67	MS68
1900-O	12		2		1	4	4	1		
1909-S	17	1	2		4	6	1	3		
1895-O	18	1		5	6		5	1		
1899-O	18		1	6	2	2	5	2		
1898-S	19		2	4	2	6	3	2		
1896-O	19			2	5	6	5	1		
1897-S	21			1	5	11	3	1		
1898-O	21			3	10	2	4	2		
1907-D	21		2	1	4	9	2	3		
1896-S	23		2	2	4	9	5	1		
1894-O	23	1	1	6	7	5	2	1		
1901-S	25		3	1	6	7	3	5		
1895-S	27	2	1	9	10	3	2			
1892-S	27	1	2	5	9	8	2			
1902-S	27	1	3	3	8	4	5	3		
1908-O	28	2	2	2	8	11	2	1		
1901-O	28		2	3	4	5	11	3		
1902-O	29	1		7	11	6	4			
1903-S	29	1	1	4	3	12	4	4		
1899-S	30		2	8	5	10	3	2		
1909-D	30		3	1	6	12	6	2		
1907-S	32		1	6	9	9	4	3		
1903-O	34	1	6	6	7	12	2			
1893-S	38			7	17	11	2	1		
1895	39	1	1	10	11	11	3	2		
1897-O	39		1	4	8	16	6	3	1	
1904-S	40	1	1	7	6	16	6	2	1	
1908-S	41		2	7	6	12	11	3		
1910-S	43			5	10	11	10	4	3	
1909-O	44		3	8	9	11	10	2	1	
1915-S	48	2	1	6	15	16	7	1		
1903	50	2	1	9	13	15	7	2		1
1893-O	50	2	4	10	11	15	4	3		1
1906-D	51		5	6	15	14	6	2	3	
1906-S	52	1	3	5	7	15	16	3	2	
1907-O	54	1	1	13	18	16	3	2		
1910-D	55	2	3	6	17	22	3	2		
1896	59		4	11	12	19	9	4		
1900-S	60	3	5	9	11	19	11	2		
1894	63	1	5	9	18	16	12	1	1	
1908-D	67	2	4	13	16	11	8	9	4	
1913-S	70		4	5	20	21	17	3		
1906-O	73		6	8	22	16	13	4	3	1
1905-O	76		2	8	32	23	6	3	2	
1904	81	2	6	13	33	24	2	1		
1914-S	83	2	2	11	29	27	11	1		
1892-O	91	1	5	16	26	27	13	3		
1905-S	92		2	11	21	33	18	6	1	
1902	93	1	6	17	22	30	16	1		
1912-S	94	5	2	18	32	28	9			
1905	117	6	5	17	32	36	20	1		
1900	117	1	9	29	25	37	10	2	4	
1911-S	133	2	3	15	27	20	42	24		
1911-D	148	1	3	10	30	35	54	13	2	
1916-S	148	2	12	33	46	39	14	2		

DATE	TOTAL	MS60	MS61	MS62	MS63	MS64	MS65	MS66	MS67	MS68
1901	157	1	7	33	51	49	13	3		
1912-D	157	5	5	35	48	47	15	2		
1909	170	2	9	34	53	50	18	3	1	
1893	177	4	5	24	49	47	42	6		
1899	179	2	11	38	52	52	19	4	1	
1897	180	2	17	26	47	63	22	3		
1908	186	1	10	33	67	58	16	1		
1906	187	5	12	47	51	49	16	5	2	
1915	189	3	5	38	65	65	11	2		
1907	214	1	9	43	78	67	14	2		
1914-D	226	7	10	49	68	71	16	4	1	
1910	258	3	12	47	73	76	38	7	2	
1898	263	3	10	40	92	64	44	10		
1912	445	7	16	74	142	148	54	4		
1913	450	9	15	79	158	139	44	5	1	
1911	511	4	19	88	159	145	81	12	3	
1914	526	7	10	62	154	214	68	10	1	
1892	681	12	31	134	209	206	69	18	2	
1916	769	15	33	150	248	249	52	12		

BARBER DIME RARITY TABLE
UNCIRCULATED POPULATION: PCGS (1/1/91) & NGC (12/1/90)

MS-64 & BETTER

DATE	TOTAL	MS64	MS65	MS66	MS67	MS68
1895-S	5	3	2			
1895-O	6		5	1		
1894-O	8	5	2	1		
1898-O	8	2	4	2		
1900-O	9	4	4	1		
1899-O	9	2	5	2		
1902-O	10	6	4			
1892-S	10	8	2			
1909-S	10	6	1	3		
1898-S	11	6	3	2		
1902-S	12	4	5	3		
1896-O	12	6	5	1		
1907-D	14	9	2	3		
1903-O	14	12	2			
1893-S	14	11	2	1		
1908-O	14	11	2	1		
1899-S	15	10	3	2		
1901-S	15	7	3	5		
1896-S	15	9	5	1		
1897-S	15	11	3	1		
1907-S	16	9	4	3		
1895	16	11	3	2		
1901-O	19	5	11	3		
1903-S	20	12	4	4		
1909-D	20	12	6	2		
1907-O	21	16	3	2		
1893-O	23	15	4	3		1
1909-O	24	11	10	2	1	

DATE	TOTAL	MS64	MS65	MS66	MS67	MS68
1915-S	24	16	7	1		
1904-S	25	16	6	2	1	
1906-D	25	14	6	2	3	
1903	25	15	7	2	1	
1908-S	26	12	11	3		
1897-O	26	16	6	3	1	
1910-D	27	22	3	2		
1904	27	24	2	1		
1910-S	28	11	10	4	3	
1894	30	16	12	1	1	
1896	32	19	9	4		
1900-S	32	19	11	2		
1908-D	32	11	8	9	4	
1905-O	34	23	6	3	2	
1906-S	36	15	16	3	2	
1906-O	37	16	13	4	3	1
1912-S	37	28	9			
1914-S	39	27	11	1		
1913-S	41	21	17	3		
1892-O	43	27	13	3		
1902	47	30	16	1		
1900	53	37	10	2	4	
1916-S	55	39	14	2		
1905	57	36	20	1		
1905-S	58	33	18	6	1	
1912-D	64	47	15	2		
1901	65	49	13	3		
1909	72	50	18	3	1	
1906	72	49	16	5	2	
1908	75	58	16	1		
1899	76	52	19	4	1	
1915	78	65	11	2		
1907	83	67	14	2		
1911-S	86	20	42	24		
1897	88	63	22	3		
1914-D	92	71	16	4	1	
1893	95	47	42	6		
1911-D	104	35	54	13	2	
1898	118	64	44	10		
1910	123	76	38	7	2	
1913	189	139	44	5	1	
1912	206	148	54	4		
1911	241	145	81	12	3	
1914	293	214	68	10	1	
1892	295	206	69	18	2	
1916	323	249	62	12		



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Barber Coin Collectors' Society

Send this form or copy the information on a separate sheet of paper and forward with your check or money order to: Membership, BCCS, P.O. Box 382246, Memphis, TN 38183-2246.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check the description that applies to you: _____ Collector _____ Dealer

Sponsor (if any): _____

My collection interests: _____

My name and address may _____ may not _____ be made available to other club members.

Dues – \$10.00 per calendar year (Journals shipped bulk rate). \$14.00 per year for dues and first class shipment of Journals. Those who join by October 15 will be members and receive the four quarterly journals published for that year. Those joining after October 15 will be members for the following year.

Signature

Date

Change of Address: To avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your Journal in a timely fashion, please allow 6 weeks for a change of address. Send all address changes to: Membership Address Changes, BCCS, P.O. Box 382246, Memphis, TN 38183-2246.

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